

Pain and the Brain

Capstone Spring 2018

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Recommended Texts:

Strunk, W. *The elements of style*. (Penguin, 2007).

Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association – 6th Edition.
Note: An electronic version of this text is available online at the APA website.

Pyrczak & Bruce (2007) *Writing Empirical Research Reports*. 6th Edition.

Cronk (2012) *How to Use SPSS Statistics* -- 7th Edition (actually, any edition will do)

Course Objectives & Content Description

A capstone course is intended to bring together the various components of the undergraduate psychology major. In addition, APA standards for the major in psychology recommend that each student design and conduct a psychological study.

Pain is a common problem that impairs people's daily activities and quality of life and costs millions of dollars annually. This course focuses on the assessment and neuropsychology of pain in order to better understand the neural mechanisms associated with experience of pain so that future health care providers, exercise professionals, and scientists may contribute to improvement of the health and well-being of people feeling pain. Towards that end, students taking this course *will conduct empirical research on some aspect of factors that are associated with the various aspects of pain, (e.g., experience, assessment, treatment, and outcome) and produce an APA format paper detailing their research.*

Each student will be responsible for designing a study, reviewing/collecting and analyzing data, and describing the results. The focus of the course will be how each section of the empirical research papers is written (e.g., introduction, methods, statistical results, and discussion). In addition, students will describe their project in a short presentation to the class.

Course Structure, Grading, & Assignments

The course is designed to help you create, conduct, and write-up your study. Each class session is meant to move you toward successful completion of your study and description of your results. Therefore, grades are partly a function of your attendance, participation, and adherence to schedule.

Participation. The class will be easier if you come to class. Every time you come to class, 5/5 points will be factored into your grade. That means if you come to every class, we will factor in a perfect score worth more than the final paper into your grade.

Lab Activities. The SPSS labs are designed to prepare you for your own data manipulation and analysis. Each Lab Activity is worth points toward your grade. If you miss a lab activity day, you will need to make up those points by completing the activity on your own time. You must make up the lab activity prior to the start of your own data analysis. You may not make up the 5/5 optional attendance points for the labs.

Written Assignments. The bulk of your grade is determined by the quality of your written assignments. Late written assignments will be automatically be docked 25% and you cannot earn points for a section that is more than one week late. Note: paper section drafts must still be submitted for feedback.

Written Assignments

Written Assignment Summary

Note: see schedule for due dates. This does not include the lab activities.
The word counts are approximate.

	Assignment	Words	Points
1	Goal Setting Essay	500–700	10
2	Idea and Five Sources	10-50	10
3	Research Question and Hypothesis	500 – 800	20
4	Title Page and Abstract Draft:	150-350	40
5	Methods Draft	500-1200	40
6	Introduction Draft	900-1500	45
7	Measures Proposal	variable	20
8	Reference Section Draft	≥ 5 sources	20
9	Results Draft	300-800	25
10	Discussion Draft	700-1500	40
11	Figure Draft		20
12	Table Draft		20
13	Final Complete Paper	3000-6000	100

STUDENT PERFORMANCE POLICY:

The faculty of the University of Missouri is committed to high academic and professional standards. These high standards are central to our mission of preparing exceptional students who will serve as stewards of our training and education. Therefore, it is our obligation to insure that students demonstrate mastery of **all** course-content. Toward these ends the following grading policies and procedures were established.

Grades will be assigned based on the following departmental standard:

Grading Scale

98-100	A+
95-97	A
92-94	A-
89-91	B+
86-88	B
83-85	B-
80-82	C+
77-79	C
74-76	C-
71-73	D+
68-70	D
65-67	D-
<65	F



Definitions of Ordinal Grading Scale

- A+ Exceptional, significantly exceeds the highest expectations. (**Note:** To be true to this definition, this grade should be given rarely.)
- A Outstanding; meets the highest standards for the assignment or course.
- A- Excellent; meets very high standards for the assignment or course.
- B+ Very good; meets high standards for the assignment or course.
- B Good; meets most of the standards for the assignment or course.
- B- More than adequate; shows some reasonable command of the material.
- C+ Acceptable; meets basic standards for the assignment or course.
- C Acceptable; meets some of the basic standards for the assignment or course.
- C- Acceptable, while falling short of meeting basic standards in several ways.
- D Minimally acceptable; lowest passing grade.
- F Failing; very poor performance

Minimum Competency:

Students must obtain a minimum competency of 74% on all major components.

Remediation Policy:

Students scoring below a 74% will be required to perform remediation of the activity. The nature of the remediation and the level of acceptable performance will be determined by me. *The original score will be used in the tabulation of the final grade.*

Deficiencies:

If a student does not achieve the required level of performance on the initial remediation, a deficiency for that activity will be assigned. Eventual remediation for all activities is required. Deficiencies occurring in 2 different activities will result in failure of the class *regardless of the current cumulative point total.*

Assignment of Grade:

Grading is performed to assess your learning and give you feedback about your learning. "Grades do not represent an objective measure of students' intelligence, capabilities, talents, or potential, nor do they capture the essence of their character, soul, or worth as human beings." (Afzaal, July 11, 2012, Chronicle of Higher Education) The reason we all are here is for us all to learn not for us to get good grades.

Reasonable effort will be made to allow students to remediate prior to the University imposed deadline for submission of grades. If remediation is not completed by grade submission deadline, and the completed portion of the student's work in the course is of passing quality, a grade of "I" will be assigned (see Policy on Incomplete Work, Office of the Registrar, University of Missouri-Columbia). If, at the end of the course, the final cumulative point total will result in a failing grade, remediation will not be completed and a failing grade will be assigned for the course.

Successful Completion of Course:

Students in this course must fulfill each of the following requirements to successfully complete this course:

1. Score of 74% on all examinations, checkouts, projects, etc. **OR** successful remediation of those activities
2. Deficiency in not more than one activity
3. Cumulative point total of 74% or above

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT:

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with us, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let us know as soon as possible. If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Office of Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696, and then notify us of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage. (Office of the Provost)

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor. (Office of the Provost).

Use of any electronic device (e.g. cell phone, iPod, laptop computer) is strictly prohibited during examinations and quizzes. All electronic devices must be turned off and remain out of sight during the examination or quiz. Failure to do so will be viewed as an act of academic dishonesty.

INTELLECTUAL PLURALISM:

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the Departmental Chair or Divisional Director; the Director of the [Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities](#) (<http://osrr.missouri.edu/>); or the [MU Equity Office](#) (<http://equity.missouri.edu/>), or by

email at equity@missouri.edu. All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course. (Office of the Provost).

[EXECUTIVE ORDER #38, ACADEMIC INQUIRY, COURSE DISCUSSION AND PRIVACY](#)

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may not make audio or video recordings of course activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation under Section 240.040 of the Collected Rules. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings of class activity are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Those students who are permitted to record are not permitted to redistribute audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters. (Office of the Provost)

Also, the instructor's content is jointly copyrighted by the Curators of the University of Missouri and your instructor. Posting the content to another website, including YouTube, Facebook, BlipTV, or any other site without express, written permission may result in disciplinary action and possible civil prosecution.

[CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT AND NETIQUETTE:](#)

A courteous learning environment is essential for this course. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an *idea* but you are not to attack an *individual*.

Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's nondiscrimination statement, add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in on-line interactions. Inappropriate comments may be deemed as a violation of the standards for students' professional conduct.

In-class behavior that is disrespectful to other students or us will result in the offending student being asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of that class meeting. Examples include inappropriate use of an electronic device and verbal or behavioral disruptions. I will not provide the missed content at a later date.

We encourage the responsible use of laptops and tablets in class for taking notes and participating in structured in-class activities. Inappropriate use of electronic devices during class include talking on a phone, surfing the internet, instant messaging, personal emails, social media, etc. Violations shall result in a verbal or written warning. If the student persists in the inappropriate use of electronic devices, she/he will be asked to leave the classroom. As stated in the academic dishonesty section, use of any electronic device during a test is strictly prohibited. Also, use of audio recording devices in class must adhere to the previously described *University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38*.

[University Calendar and Special Dates/Times:](#)

Courses scheduled for the standard 16 week semester will observe University policy regarding Reading Day and finals week.

Courses may meet outside of the standard days/times listed during registration. These special meeting times will be noted in the syllabus distributed at the beginning of the course. Special sessions noted in the syllabus will be governed by the standard department attendance policy.